*Entrance*

Governor designate must remain hidden in the ship until the atmosphere ashore was more agreeable for military exercises. 000

Goode and the A.D.C. and I lunched together in the deserted saloon, all the passengers who, unlike myself, were free agents, having gone ashore despite the heat. After lunch Goode and the A.D.C. returned to the shore, and left to myself, I went to my cabin and sat under a fan and chatted to my Arab servant, Salem, who was busily engaged in laying out for the first time my white ceremonial uniform with its almost indecently bright and new gold epaulettes. We talked of the town and the Protectorate and the shooting prospects for the coming winter season, and a host of other unimportant matters. We had known each other for twenty years, and between us there was a degree of understanding and mutual respect, which made our relationship closer than that of just master and servant; we were friends. One of the great charms of the Arabs of tribal status from the Protectorate is that when they enter service with understanding people they are never familiar and never presume. Salem and I, when on tour in the Protectorate, have on more than one occasion sat, together with the local Ruler, on the floor and eaten with our hands from the same dish, and then, twenty-four hours later, thanks to air transport, Salem, dressed in immaculate white uniform with a red fez on his head, has superintended the service of refreshments at an official function over which I have presided at Government House. Sometimes when strangers have obviously been much impressed by his correct and formal demeanour, I have had an almost irresistible desire to laugh and tell them what he and I were doing so short a time before; but I have restrained myself. It would not have done, so very few would have understood—more is the pity. [184] [609]

The hot afternoon passed pleasantly enough and all too soon it was time for me to put on my cool-looking, but in reality, very hot uniform and don my regulation white helmet surmounted by its plume of red and white feathers; all very glorious, but remarkably uncomfortable. As soon as I was dressed I went out on deck and found the A.D.C., a retired Commander of the Royal Navy, ready and waiting and the launch alongside.